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office hours T 4:30-6:00, W 2:30-3:00 and by appointment

W 3441: The Rise of American Capitalism

This course explores the transformations of the nineteenth-century American economy and society brought about by the rise of wage labor, expansion of markets, slavery and emancipation, territorial conquest, transnational investment, emergence of corporations, and the development of railroads, extractive industries and new technologies as well as new instruments of finance and law. The course also considers how social and political contests helped shape the American industrial economy and society.

The following books have been ordered at Book Culture. Many of them can also be found used on Abebooks.com (allow several weeks for delivery).

Christopher Clark, *The Roots of Rural Capitalism*

Edward Balleisín *Navigating Failure: Bankruptcy and Commercial Society in Antebellum America*

Herman Melville, *The Confidence Man: His Masquerade*

Samuel Truett, *Fugitive Landscapes: The Forgotten History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*

James Green, *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America*

In addition numerous chapters and articles, either posted on Courseworks under Assignment (marked with *) or available through JSTOR, are required reading for the class.

Anyone who has trouble locating the reading assignment should let Professor Blackmar know immediately.

Requirements

Participation in Section (20%) All students must take a discussion section and are expected to come to section weekly having done the week's reading and prepared to discuss it.

4-5 page paper evaluating primary document (15%): Due in lecture Monday Feb 21

Midterm: (20%) W. March 9

4-5 page paper evaluating primary document (15%): Due April 26

Final Exam: 30%

Assignments: Readings marked with * have been posted under Assignments on Courseworks. Assignments marked JSTOR are available through JSTOR on the Library web site (E-resources: data bases). You should complete the readings in time for the discussion section each week.

W Jan.: 19 Introduction

1. The problems of definitions and conceptualization

M Jan. 24: What is capitalism?

W Jan. 26: British capitalism, American household economies, credit, and the cash nexus

*Joyce Appleby, "The Promise In Prosperity," *Capitalism and a New Social Order: The Republican Vision of the 1790s*, 25-50

*Jeanne Boydston, "To Earn her Daily Bread: Housework and Antebellum Working-class Subsistence," *Radical History Review* 35 (1986), 7-25.

*Douglas Egerton, "Markets Without a Market Revolution: Southern Planters and Capitalism" *Journal of the Early Republic*, Vol. 16, no. 2 (Summer, 1996), 207-221 JSTOR

2. Agrarian republic

M Jan. 31: Diversified family farming

W Feb. 2: Slavery, cotton, commerce, and capitalist production

Christopher Clark, *The Roots of Rural Capitalism*, chapters 2-3, 6-8

Review to include in discussion: Egerton, "Markets Without a Market Revolution: Southern Planters and Capitalism" JSTOR

3. Waged and unwaged labor in crafts, manufacturing, and homes

M. Feb. 7: Artisans and skill

W. Feb. 9: Textile mills and work discipline

*Sean Wilentz, "Metropolitan Industrialization" from *Chants Democratic": New York City and the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788-1850* (1984), 107-142

*Tom Dublin, *Women at Work: The Transformation of Work and Community in Lowell, Massachusetts, 1826-1860* chapters 2, 4, 6, 9

*National Trades Union, Committee on Female Labor, 1836

*Mary Paul Letters, *Farm to Factory, Women's Letter's 1830-1860*, 97-130.

4. The subversion of proprietary independence

M. Feb. 14 Family networks and the mobilization of capital

W. Feb. 16 The problem with banks and money

Edward Balleis *Navigating Failure: Bankruptcy and Commercial Society in Antebellum America*

4-5 page paper analyzing primary document due in class M. Feb. 14

5. Institutions of Capital Accumulation and Investment

M. Feb. 21 Family Trusts, Partnerships, and Corporations

W. Feb. 24 Interest and Dividends

*Robert Glass Cleland, *A History of Phelps Dodge, 1834-1950*, chapters 1-4

*Arthur Johnson and Barry Supple, *Boston Capitalists and Western Railroads*, chaps 4, 5, 7

* The Pennsylvania Rail Road Company, "Organization for Conducting the Business of the Road," December 26, 1857

6. Moral Hazards of a Market Society

M. Feb. 28: "The Man with the Gold Sleeve Buttons": Philanthropy and Power

W. March 2: "The Metaphysics of Indian Hating": Passion and Interest

Herman Melville, *The Confidence Man: His Masquerade*

7. War and Emancipation

M. March 7: The American Civil War as the "last bourgeois revolution"

W. March 9: Midterm

Spring Break March 14-18

8. The Capitalization of the West, the Underdevelopment of the South

M. March 21: Federal policies and the integration of the national market

W. March 23: Engineers of finance and management

Richard White, "Information, Markets and Corruption: Transcontinental Railroads in the Gilded Age," *Journal of American History* (2003) JSTOR

*Clark Spence, *Mining Engineers and the American West: The Lace-Boot Brigade, 1849-1933*, chapters 3-4

*Gavin Wright, *Old South, New South: Revolutions in the Southern Economy Since the Civil War*, chapter 4

9. Frontiers and Natural Resources

M. March 28 Indian wars, homesteads, and land speculation

W. March 30 Timber, coal, iron, and copper

Samuel Truett, *Fugitive Landscapes: The Forgotten History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*

10. Political responses: Grangers, Knights, Brotherhoods, and Anarchists

M. April 4 Farmers, merchants, and the contest over railroad rates

W. April 6 The labor movement and the language of class

James Green, *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America*

11. Consolidation of the Industrial Order

M. April 11: Mass Production and Mass Distribution

W. April 13: Struggles over control of the shop floor

Alfred Chandler, "The Beginnings of 'Big Business' in American Industry," *The Business History Review*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (Spring, 1959), pp. 1-31 JSTOR

*David Montgomery, "Workers Control of Machine Production in the 19th Century" in *Workers' Control in America: Studies in the History of Work, Technology, and Labor Struggles*, 9-31

*Lara Vapnek, "Working Girls and White Slaves," *Breadwinners: Working Women and Economic Independence 1865-1920*

13. Defining and Redefining the Rules of the Game

M. April 18: Universities and the Rise of Social Science Reform

W. April 20: Contests in the Courts

*Court cases: *Munn v. Illinois* 94 U.S. 113 (1877); *Chicago, Milwaukee, and Saint Paul Railway Company v. Minnesota*, 134 U.S. 418 (1890)

In Re Jacobs (98 N.Y. 98) (1885)

Soon Hing v. Crowley, 113 U.S. 703 (1885); *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 370 (1886)

In Re Debs, 158 U.S. 564 (1895)

Lochner v. New York 198 U.S. 45 (1905)

*Andrew Carnegie, “The Gospel of Wealth”

14. Depression and empire

M. April 25: Populism, Labor Militancy, and the Discourse of Progressive Reform

W. April 27: Formal and Informal Empire and the Quest for New Markets

*United States Strike Commission, “Report on the Chicago Strike of June-July, 1894” (Washington D.C.: 1895), 1-54, and Appendix Testimony of Eugene Debs, George Pullman, Albert Sullivan, Jane Addams, and others.

4-5 page paper on primary source due in section Th. April 26

14. The Turn of the Wheel

M May 2: Mergers and Monopoly

*Ron Chernow, *The House of Morgan: An American Banking Dynasty and the Rise of Modern Finance*, pp 1-121